

CLAIMS

We claim:

- 5 1. A computer-implemented method comprising:
 - activating, in response to a user request, a
 - first test mode of a document having a document
 - data set;
 - 10 automatically storing a first test mode data
 - set of the first test mode wherein said first test
 - mode data set is said document data set at the
 - time of said activating said first test mode;
 - changing data in the document data set in
 - response to input of new data;
 - 15 activating, in response to another user
 - request, a second test mode;
 - automatically storing a second test mode data
 - set of the second test mode wherein said second
 - document data set is said document data set at the
 - 20 time of said activating said second test mode;
 - changing data in the document data set in
 - response to input of other new data;
 - restoring the second test mode data set in
 - said document upon leaving the second test mode;
 - 25 and
 - restoring the first test mode data set in
 - said document upon leaving the first test mode
 - where said method provides a plurality of nested
 - test modes for creating, reviewing and retrieving
 - 30 a plurality of different document configurations
 - based on different document data sets.

2. The method of Claim 1 wherein more than two
- nested test modes are available.

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3. The method of Claim 1 wherein said second test mode is nested within said first test mode.

4. The method of Claim 1 wherein said second test
5 mode is not nested within said first test mode.

5. The method of Claim 1 wherein said document is a spreadsheet document.

10 6. The method of Claim 2 wherein said document is a spreadsheet document.

15 7. The method of Claim 1 wherein the first and second test mode data sets correspond to different formatting options of a document.

8. The method of Claim 1 wherein all test mode data sets are stored and accessible upon user request.

20 9. The method of Claim 1, further comprising:
recognizing and storing an order of creation of each test mode data set.

25 10. The method of Claim 9 further comprising:
enabling movement forward and backward between different stored test mode data sets.

30 11. The method of Claim 10 comprising:
arranging said stored test mode data sets as a tree structure.

12. The method of Claim 11 comprising:
displaying the tree structure on a display medium; and

enabling the user to select a particular test mode data set represented in the tree structure using a graphical user interface.

5 13. The method of Claim 10 comprising:
 assigning an identification to each branching
 point of the tree structure, wherein said each
 branching point represents one of said test mode
 data sets.

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14. A computer-implemented method comprising:
 activating, in response to a user request, a
 first test mode of a document having a document
 data set;

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 automatically storing a first test mode data
 set of the first test mode and a test mode
 identifier for said first test mode data set
 wherein said first test mode data set is said
 document data set at the time of said activating
 said first test mode;

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 changing data in the document data set in
 response to input of new data;

 activating, in response to another user
 request, a second test mode;

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 automatically storing a second test mode data
 set of the second test mode and a test mode
 identifier for said second test mode data set
 wherein said second test mode data set is said
 document data set at the time of said activating
 said second test mode;

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 changing data in the document data set in
 response to input of other new data;

 restoring the second test mode data set in
 said document upon leaving the second test mode;
 and

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restoring the first test mode data set in said document upon leaving the first test mode where said method provides a plurality of nested test modes for creating, reviewing and retrieving a plurality of different document configurations based on different document data sets.

15. The method of Claim 14 further comprising:
displaying, in response to yet another user request a tree structure on a display medium wherein said tree structure represents test mode data sets that can be restored in said document.

16. The method of Claim 15 further comprising:
restoring a user selected test mode data set in said tree structure in said document.

17. The method of Claim 15 wherein said second test mode is nested within said first test mode.

18. The method of Claim 15 wherein said second test mode is not nested within said first test mode.

19. A computer system comprising:

a memory having stored therein a nested test module;

a processor coupled to said memory wherein upon execution of said nested test module by said processor generates a method comprising:

activating, in response to a user request, a first test mode of a document having a document data set;

automatically storing a first test mode data set of the first test mode in said memory wherein said first test mode data set

is said document data set at the time of said activating said first test mode;

changing data in the document data set in response to input of new data;

5 activating, in response to another user request, a second test mode;

automatically storing a second test mode data set of the second test mode in said memory wherein said second test mode data set is said document data set at the time of said activating said second test mode;

changing data in the document data set in response to input of other new data;

15 restoring the second test mode data set in said document upon leaving the second test mode; and

restoring the first test mode data set in said document upon leaving the first test mode where said method provides a plurality of nested test modes for creating, reviewing and retrieving a plurality of different document configurations based on different document data sets.

25 20. The computer system of Claim 19 wherein more than two nested test modes are available.

21. The computer system of Claim 19 wherein said second test mode is nested within said first test mode.

30 22. The computer system of Claim 19 wherein said second test mode is not nested within said first test mode.

35 23. The computer system of Claim 19 wherein said method further comprises:

recognizing and storing an order of creation
of said test mode data sets.

24. The computer system of Claim 23 wherein said
5 method further comprising:
enabling movement forward and backward
between said stored test mode data sets.

25. The computer system of Claim 23 wherein said
10 method further comprises:
arranging said stored test mode data sets as
a tree structure.

26. The computer system of Claim 25 wherein
15 computer system further comprises a display medium and
said method further comprises:
displaying the tree structure on said display
medium; and
enabling the user to select a particular test
20 mode data set represented in the tree structure
using a graphical user interface.

27. A computer program product having stored
thereon a method for nesting a plurality of test modes
25 of a computer generated document, said method
comprising:
activating, in response to a user request, a
first test mode of said computer generated
document having a document data set;
30 automatically storing a first test mode data
set of the first test mode wherein said first test
mode data set is said document data set at the
time of said activating said first test mode;
changing data in the document data set in
35 response to input of new data;

activating, in response to another user request, a second test mode;

automatically storing a second test mode data set of the second test mode wherein said second test mode data set is said document data set at the time of said activating said second test mode;

changing data in the document data set in response to input of other new data;

restoring the second test mode data set in said computer generated document upon leaving the second test mode; and

restoring the first test mode data set in said computer generated document upon leaving the first test mode where said method provides a plurality of nested test modes for creating, reviewing and retrieving a plurality of different document configurations based on different document data sets.

28. A system comprising:

means for activating, in response to a user request, a first test mode of a document having a document data set;

means for automatically storing a first test mode data set of the first test mode wherein said first test mode data set is said document data set at the time of said activating said first test mode;

means for changing data in the document data set in response to input of new data;

means for activating, in response to another user request, a second test mode;

means for automatically storing a second test mode data set of the second test mode wherein said second test mode data set is said document data

set at the time of said activating said second test mode;

means for changing data in the document data set in response to input of other new data;

5 means for restoring the second test mode data set in said document upon leaving the second test mode; and

10 means for restoring the first test mode data set in said document upon leaving the first test mode where said method provides a plurality of nested test modes for creating, reviewing and retrieving a plurality of different document configurations based on different document data sets.

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